

State of New Hampshire Winter Maintenance Cost and Fast Facts

The NH Department of Transportation performs winter maintenance operations with **96 patrol crews** dispersed throughout the State in their respective patrol shed locations.

These 96 NHDOT patrol crews maintain **9,122 lane miles of State highways**. A “lane mile” equals one mile of one lane of travel on a highway. Therefore if someone is traveling south on Interstate 93, one mile of south bound highway consists of 2 lane miles. If someone is traveling west bound on Route 111 each mile of the highway consists of 1 lane mile west bound and 1 lane mile east bound. The NHDOT patrol crews operate 310 State trucks state wide and they also supervise the operation of approximately 430 hired trucks state wide that supplement and assist with winter maintenance and snow removal.

How much does it cost the State of New Hampshire to perform winter maintenance for a typical snow storm? **The state-wide cost of winter snow removal on New Hampshire’s State highways for a typical 8 hour storm with 2 salt applications is approximately \$587,227.** This includes all State equipment, hired equipment, labor charges, fuel, salt and sand.

Salt and Sand Usage, is typically averaged over a 5 year period to allow for differences in winter severity. For example, the 5 year average from the Fall of 2007 to the Spring of 2012 for winter salt and sand usage was **169,014 tons of salt per year** and **45,830 cubic yards of sand per year**. The average cost of rock salt for last winter 2011-2012 was **\$65 per ton**.

NHDOT plows and clears approximately 4 billion cubic feet of snow off of New Hampshire State roadways each year based on an average snow fall accumulation of 66” in the Concord area. To give you an idea, 4 billion cubic feet of snow laid out in a 1’ x 1 cross section, would circle the earth 30 times.